

**Policy Committee Meeting
Minutes
August 3, 2015**

The meeting of the Policy Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Cathy Fenley.

Other Board Members in attendance were: Bill Scott, Mike Elliot, (Raeann Hofkin 6:34; Will Pike – 6:40 PM). District administrators and staff in attendance were: Karen Henry, Sandy Kassel, Dr. McGloin, Dr. King and Ashley Kitten.

The meeting began with the approval of the minutes from the February 16th Policy Committee meeting.

Policies discussed:

#117 - Homebound Instructions, #137 – Home Education Programs, #204 – Attendance

These policies are being updated to reflect changes in the state regulations. The Homebound Instruction and Home Education policies had services removed that do not need to be provided by the school district under law. The Attendance Policy was updated to reflect changes in the number of days students are permitted to be absent before a doctor's excuse is required. Verbiage was also added regarding days for 'Educational Trips' being counted towards the number of allowable absences and to prohibit students from missing school for Educational Trips during state testing windows.

#227 & AR – Drugs & Alcohol

Questions were raised about why we were eliminating tobacco products from the policy. It was explained that there is a separate policy that was updated earlier and first time offense should not result in 10 day suspension; language was added about patent and designer drugs.

#310, #410 - Eliminating a Position; #335, #435, #535 and AR's; - FMLA; #336, #436, #536 - Bereavement Leave; #339, #439, #539 - Uncompensated Leave; #339.1, #439.1, #539.1 - Maternity/Childrearing Leave ;

These policies are being revised to be consistent across all categories of employees in the district; for Policy 310, there was an addition of the word 'position;' there was a discussion about 'furlough' being the same as elimination; clarification was provided as to the difference. If a program is eliminated, any position associated with it would also be eliminated. The teacher in that position could move to a position for which he/she has seniority if he/she has the proper certification.

The Bereavement Leave in various groups' agreements differed; the policy was revised to reflect what should be in place for all groups (i.e. inclusion on

grandchild); there was a discussion about as we move forward putting this in policy instead of agreements.

#347, #447, #547 - Worker's Compensation Leave (new).

#808 – Food Services

#339 - Uncompensated Leave – Discussion about “fairness” in mandating a length of time of employment before allowing uncompensated leave. Some of the problems that have occurred with people taking uncompensated leave were explained.

#339.1 - Maternity Leave/Childrearing – employees have to be employed at least 1 yr.; added 8 weeks for a C-Section.

#348 – Harassment – addition of training within 90 days of hire.

#810 – Transportation

Discussion about challenges with notifications about childcare arrangements; many people are not adhering to the timeline, nor the policy; frequent or last minute changes are unreasonable to be able to take care of in a timely manner and put undue stress on teachers and school personnel who have to get students on the correct buses. Notification to parents will be done through email blasts/text and sending information if parents do not have email/computer.

There was a lengthy discussion about transporting children for childcare after 5th grade for non-special education students (some students with IEPs have disabilities that require this). The district has not transported students to childcare from the middle school. Students are not taken out to buses as they are in the elementary schools; they are dismissed as a group. Time and limited personnel prohibit creating the same type of situation during dismissal at the middle school.

There are child care places that children can walk to (there was discussion about walking to the YMCA). Also, Creative Care contacted Karen; would accept middle school kids; would send their van to get them. Lifespan is also within walking distance.

The determination was made to maintain only the transportation to childcare for K – 5 only.

#901- Public Relations Objectives; District Use of Social Media; #903 - District Approved Distribution of Written or Electronically Transmitted - in light of frequent use of social media and electronic communications, there was a need for a new policy to clarify expectations and appropriate actions in these areas.

#006 Local Board Procedures

Discussion was held on minutes and the amount of detail included in the meetings. The discussion focused on the various options for people to get more detailed information (videos) and for the ability for individuals to make requests to amend.

The determination was made that the minutes will stay as is.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM